We claim:

1. An implantable device for treating a disease, comprising a biodegradable matrix material and at least one drug, wherein the at least one drug is released into the body and wherein the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device comprises a ring-like, flag-like, or a plaster-like configuration.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable matrix material comprises a polymeric material, a metallic material, or a combination thereof.

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable matrix material comprises an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphophazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, manganese-lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 % to about 20 wt % of lithium, or any combination thereof.

5. A device according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable matrix material comprises a naturally occurring protein, elastin, collagen, albumin, keratin, fibronectin, silk, silk

fibroin, actin, myosin, fibrinogen, thrombin, aprotinin, antithrombin III, genetically engineered protein polymer consisting of silk-like blocks, elastin-like blocks, collagen-like blocks, laminin-like blocks, fibronectin-like blocks, and the combination of silk-like and elastin-like blocks, or any combination thereof.

6. A device according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable matrix material comprises a shape-memory effect material.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the biodegradable matrix material that hardens via an increase in its temperature with an energy source.

8. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device comprises different areas, with each area comprising a different drug or a different area comprising the same drug in different concentrations.

9. A device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one drug comprises Taxol®, Paxitaxel™, adenosine, Aldactone®, alteplace, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, Celebrex®, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, Flecainide, Furosemide™, Heparin, Hydralazine, Ibutilide, Isosorbide dinitrate, Labetalol, Lidocaine, lisinopril, Losartan, Lovastatin, Methydopa, Metoprolol, Minoxidil, nifedipine, Nimodipine, Nitropusside, Pravastatin, Procainamide, Propranolol™, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.

10. A device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one drug is selected from the group consisting of resins, fibrates, niacin and statins.

11. A device according to claim 1, further comprising one or more particles, wherein the at least one drug is coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles, and the particles are incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material.

12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the particles comprise iron oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO_2), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladium oxide, palladiumcobalt, ceramic, bioceramic, glass bioglass, glass-ceramic, resin, cement, hydroxyapatite, calcium sulfate, Al_2O_3, tricalcium phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, alginate, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, stainless steel-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloys, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, or any combination thereof.

13. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a drug releasing agent.

14. A device according to claim 1, further comprising depots for storing the at least one drug, wherein the depots open as the matrix material dissolves or degrades.

15. A device according to claim 1, further comprising Zyn-Linkers.

16. A device according to claim 1, further comprising a binder.

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein binder comprises a synthetic polymer, dextran, any sugar based substance, starch, chitosan, agarose, albumin, or any combination thereof.

18. A device according to claim 11, wherein the particle size is in the range from about 40 nanometers to about 1 micrometer.

19. A device according to claim 1, further comprising one or more particles that change the contrast in a radiological imaging system.

20. A device according to claim 19, wherein the one or more particles comprise iron-oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium-alloys, titaniumoxide (TiO_2), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladiumoxide, palladiumcobalt, ^{90}Y, ^{133}Xe, ^{81m}Kr, ^{111}In, ^{133m}In, ^{201}Th, or any combination thereof.

21. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is attached to a vessel wall via mechanical expansion and clamping.

22. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is attached to a vessel wall via glue.

23. A method to treat or prevent a disease, comprising

a. deploying an implantable device, comprising a biodegradable matrix material, and at least one drug; and

b. releasing the drug as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades over a period of time,

wherein the device is deployed into a vessel of a patient's body.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the method is used for treating a vascular or cardiovascular disease.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein the disease is vascular plaque, cardiovascular plaque, or arteriosclerosis.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein the device comprises a ring-like, flag-like, or a plaster-like configuration.

27. A method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one drug comprises a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, Taxol®, Paxitaxel™, adenosine, Aldactone®, alteplace, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril,

carvedilol, Celebrex®, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, Flecainide, Furosemide™, Heparin, Hydralazine, Ibutilide, Isosorbide dinitrate, Labetalol, Lidocaine, lisinopril, Losartan, Lovastatin, Methydopa, Metoprolol, Minoxidil, nifedipine, Nimodipine, Nitropusside, Pravastatin, Procainamide, Propranolol™, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.

28. A method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one drug comprises an anti-inflammatory agent, and wherein the method is used for treating or preventing vascular or cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, or Alzheimer's disease.

29. A method according to claim 23, wherein the biodegradable matrix material comprises an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphophazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, manganese-lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 % to about 20 wt % of lithium, or any combination thereof.

30. A method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one drug dilutes over a period of time selected from the group consisting of up to ten years, up to one year, up to six months, up to one month, up to one week, and up to one day.